

POWER AND SELF DETERMINATION

DAY ONE

CHILDHOOD - NATIONHOOD - EXISTENCE

10.30 NOAM CHOMSKY: GEORGE DAVIE: ~~CHRISTA WOOLF~~ CHRISTA WOOLF
TALK and OPEN FORUM

12.30 LUNCH 1.20

1.30 INTRODUCTORY ON WORKSHOPS
WORKSHOPS (MODERATORS)

PLENARY 4.30 END

7.30 READINGS - CONCERT LATE

DAY TWO

LANGUAGE - TRADITION - EXISTENCE ①

10.30 CHINWEIZU: JEROME ROTHENBERG: ADDNIS
TALK and OPEN FORUM

12.30 LUNCH 1.20

1.30 INTRODUCTORY ON WORKSHOPS
WORKSHOPS (MODERATORS)

PLENARY 4.30 END

7.30 READINGS - CONCERT - LATE

DAY TWO

LANGUAGE - TRADITION - EXISTENCE ②

10.30 SORLEY MACLEAN: NGUGI WATHIONG'O:

TALK and OPEN FORUM

LUNCH

1.30 INTRODUCTORY ON WORKSHOPS
WORKSHOPS (MODERATORS)

PLENARY 4.30 END

7.30 READINGS - CONCERT - CELEIDH - LATE

POETS / PROSE

Mahmood Jamal

Mongane Serote

Alasdair Gray

Aonghus Macneacail

Leonard / Ama Ata Aidoo

Kelman Ben Okri

Lemne Sissay / Kuesi Johnston

Workshop Leaders/Moderators

Yusuf Hassan

Florence Alexis

Amit Wilson

Peter Krawitz

Keith Millar

John la Rose

Pratibha Parmar
(v3 Mark / June Jordan)

OPEN
CIRCULAR

MARIAMA BÂ 1929-81
(Senegal) ~~1929-1981~~
Seydou Badian (Senegal 1928-)

MONGO BETI ^{French} Cameroun *
DENNIS BRUTUS AZANIA *
JOHN PEPPER CLARK Nigeria
JOSÉ CRAVEIRINHA (1922 Mozambique
MASSA MAKAN DIABATÉ (MALI ¹⁹³⁸ *)
OBI EGBUNA (NIGERIA 1938) *
BUCHI EMECHETA 1944 NIGERIA)
NURUDDIN FARAH SOMALI 1945
MAZISI (RAYMOND) KUNENE AZANIA ¹⁹³⁰ *
TABAN LO LIYONG UGANDA 1939 *
HENRI LOPES 1937 CONGO
DAVID G MAILLU 1939 KENYA
JEAN PIERRE MAKOUTA-MBOUKOU 1929 CONGO
DAMBUDZO MARECHERA ZIMBABWE 1955
EDOUARD MAUNICK MAURITIUS 1931 *
EZEKIEL MPHAHLELE
LEWIS N'KOSI AZANIA 1936
FLORA NWAPA NIGERIA 1931
GRACE OGOT KENYA 1930
JOHN ATUKWEI OKAI GHANA 1941
GABRIEL OKARA 1921 NIGERIA
FEMI OSOFISAN 1946 NIGERIA
SEMBENI OUSMANE 1923 SENEGAL
RICHARD RIVE 1931 AZANIA
JEAN BAPTISTE TATI-LOUTARD ^{CONGO} 1938
MIRIAM TLALI 1930 AZANIA
LUANDINO VIERA 1935 ANGOLA
AMRIT WILSON INDIA
NAICA KABEER INDIA
WANJIRU KIHORO KENYA
FLORENCE ALEXIS

SHAHID ASHRIF

BENOKRI

RUHHSANA AHMAD

10 A.M.

THURSDAY

Literature the matter of politics

NOAM CHOMSKY: GEORGE DAVIE: CHINUA CHEBE

CHINWEIZU: SORLEY MACLEAN

ADONIS

SORLEY MACLEAN

MONGANE SEROTE

N'Gugi

AYI KWEI ARNAN

GHANAIAN

lives in Dakar
Senegal

SELF DETERMINATION & COMMON SENSE

BLOOD & GUTS & TRADITION

AMOS TUTUOLA

TRADITION & THE WILL TO FREEDOM

JOHN LA ROSE / PETER KRAVITZ / YUSUF HASSAN
Ed Emery

CLARIBEL ALEGRIA
NICARAGUA 1924

AMA ATA AIDOO

Friday 12th January

10.00 -10.30 Coffee

10.30 -12.30 Self-determination and power

TRADITION and EXISTENCE
LANGUAGE & BREATH

A small panel of three(?) speakers who will
give 20 - 25 minute inputs on their own perspectives. Possible
contributors include: Sorley MacLean

TOM LEONARD

~~another Scottish writer/theatre person?~~

a Scottish Child member? JUNE JORDAN

~~a commentator/critic who can cross~~

~~political/cultural/artistic boundaries??~~

NGUGI WA THIONG'O

12.30 -1.45 LUNCH

1.45 -3.15 Workshop groups

3.15 Coffee/tea in group rooms

4.00 - 4.30 Plenary Panel discussion

4.30 - 7.30 No programme- bar open, book stalls, displays

7.30 - 12.00 Readings, concert & Ceilidh

As well as the listed platform speakers, an invited membership would comprise about one third of the participants. These would include 15 workshop group leaders; a number of Scottish writers, critics, and commentators from a range of spheres; a similar group from furth of Scotland; about 30 (2 per workshop) people who are prepared to give a short input/account of their own efforts at determination. These could include: members of community action groups - tenants groups, anti-dampness in housing campaigners, women's groups, ethnic rights groups, the peace movement/anti nuclear campaigners, workers' co-ops, youth groups etc. etc.

All writers and musicians who are attending will be invited to perform/read in the evening events.

The remainder of the membership will be drawn up by application through publicity.

Proposal for a

SELF-DETERMINATION & POWER event

DATES: 10, 11, 12 January 1990

LOCATION: Pearce Institute, Govan

Organised and Supported by:

Edinburgh Review
Free University
Scottish Child magazine

TASK: to explore the possibilities for, and constraints on self-determination in our individual, social, cultural and political lives.

METHOD: devise a programme of talks, discussions, group workshops, readings and performances;

gather a membership (approx 300) from people in Scotland who have demonstrated self-determined activity, writers and artists from Scotland and elsewhere who have an interest, and theorists and commentators who can contribute;

structure the event in such a way that the gathering itself is a platform for learning through experience. Process, as well as content will be a legitimate subject for study, particularly those aspects which touch on self-determination and power.

EVENT MANAGEMENT: (at the present, but to be expanded) James Kelman, Derek Rodger.

Proposed programme

Wed 10th January

- 9.30- 10.30 Registration and coffee
- 10.30-11.00 Opening remarks/ Setting the context/
Organisation.
- 11.00-12.30 Self-determination: a life task, a political
task Noam Chomsky (45 - 50 minutes)
- Remarks and thoughts in reply by one or two
commentators with specific reference to the
Scottish context - George Davie?
James Kelman?
~~Neal Ascherson?~~
??? ~~John Hume~~
- 12.30-1.45 LUNCH (Catering on the premises)
- 1.45 -3.15 Workshop groups
- Fifteen groups of approx 20 people. Each
group will be led by an event member designated by the event
management.
- The task of the workshop group will be to
study through practical example, and through the experience of
the group, the possibilities for, and obstacles to self-
determined action.
- 3.15 Coffee/tea in group rooms
- 4.00 -4.30 Plenary Panel discussion - ~~Noam Chomsky~~ and
others.
- 4.30 - 7.30 No Programme- bar open, book stalls, displays
- 7.30 - 12.00 Readings and Concert

WRITERS:

JEROME ROTHEBERG
JUNE JORDAN
ADONIS
ALASDAIR GRAY
KATHY AICER
TOM RAWORTH
MIKHAIL KHAZIN
TOM LEONARD
SORLEY MACLEAN
JENNY DISKI
MAGGIE O'SULLIVAN
MONGANE SEROTE
CHRISTA WOLF
NGUGI WA THIONG'O
MAHMOOD JAMAL
BEN OKRI
GUS JOHN
MIKLOS HARASZTI
CHINWEIZU
JOHN LA ROSE
L. KWESI JOHNSON

Thursday 11th January

10.00 Coffee

10.30 -12.30 Self-determination and power - the experience
in other settings

A small panel of three(?) speakers who will
give 20 - 25 minute inputs on their own perspectives. Possible
contributors include: Ngugi O'Thiong'o - exiled Kenyan writer
Adonis - Palestinian poet
Mamood Jamal - British/Asian poet
broadcaster and film-maker
South African?
International Monetary Fund/ Economist???

TRADITION and EXISTENCE
LANGUAGE & BREATH

JUNE JORDAN
TOM LEONARD
CHINWEIZU

12.30 -1.45 LUNCH

1.45 - 3.15 Workshop groups

3.15 Coffee/tea in group rooms

4.00 - 4.30 Plenary Panel discussion *led by CHOMSKY*

4.30 - 7.30 No programme- bar open, book stalls, displays

7.30 - 12.00 Readings and concert (possibly in another
venue with public access)

Revised Draft Proposal for a

SELF-DETERMINATION & POWER event

DATES: 10, January 1990

LOCATION: Pearce Institute, Govan

Organised and Supported by:

Edinburgh Review - (to be confirmed)
Free University
Scottish Child magazine

Self-determination in the world is a universal task. How does the individual establish self in the group/ institution/ society? How do groups with common interests achieve their goals in their political context?

This jointly run event will, from the keynote contribution by American radical critic, Noam Chomsky, look at the task of self-determination in the contemporary Scottish context.

Proposed programme

Wed 10th January

9.30- 10.30	Registration and coffee
10.30-11.00	Opening remarks/ Setting the context/ Organisation.
11.00-12.30	<u>Self-determination: a life task, a political task</u> Noam Chomsky (45 - 50 minutes) Remarks and thoughts in reply by one or two commentators with specific reference to the Scottish context: James Kelman/ } Derek Rodger/ } one to female speaker } chair
12.30-1.45	LUNCH (Catering on the premises)
1.45 -3.15	Discussion groups Maximum fifteen groups of maximum 20 people. Each group will be led by an event member designated by the event management. The task of the workshop group will be to study through members own experience, the possibilities for, and obstacles to self-determined action in Scotland.
3.15	Coffee/tea
3.45 -4.30	Plenary Panel discussion - Noam Chomsky and others.

4.30 - 7.30 No Programme- bar open, book stalls, displays

7.30 - 12.00 Readings and Concert

programme to be worked out in outline

OPTIONAL and/or SEPARATE EVENT

Thursday 11th January

2.00 - 4.00 Optional/ Separate Seminar

held in Pearce Institute OR other venue

Noam Chomsky and others on a philosophical theme

~~9-30~~ ~~10-30~~ coffee
arrival
etc
10 AM
10

4.00 - 4.30 Coffee/Tea

4.30 - 7.30 Bar/ Bookstalls / Displays

7.30 - 12.00 Readings and Concert

10 AM - arrival
1030 1100 Key Speech
11 to 1245 dinner

An invited membership will comprise about one third of the participants. These will include:

15 workshop group leaders;

a number of Scottish writers, critics, and commentators;

a similar group from furth of Scotland;

about 30 (2 per workshop) people who have made great efforts at determination. These could include: members of community action groups, tenants groups, anti-dampness in housing campaigners, women's groups, ethnic rights groups, the peace movement/anti nuclear campaigners, workers' co-ops, youth groups etc. etc.

2 to 3.30
330-400 tea/coffee
4. to 4.30 summation

All writers and musicians who are attending will be invited to perform/read in the evening event(s).

The remainder of the membership will be drawn up by application through publicity.

"...Nasty dirty little things, little girls are. Glad I never was one."

"Oh, but surely you must have been a little girl once, Headmistress. Surely you were."

"Not for long anyway," Miss Trunchbull barked, grinning. "I became a woman very quickly."

Just like authoritarian propaganda merchants, and power brokers everywhere, the boorishly autocratic Miss Trunchbull in Roald Dahl's Matilda, to suit her power position in the present, has to deny and alter the past. No matter how absurd the claim - Trunchbull's that she was not a child for long - it has to be believed and bolstered, less the regime at Crunchem Hall should falter.

Contrived, caricatured, and comic book style it may be, the creator of the Trunchbull regime has written trenchantly elsewhere of being himself condemned to an English public school education, and of its irredeemable class bias.

For the joke that is Matilda, as all jokes do, contains a number of truths about real-life experience. Not the least of these is the connection between social and political systems and the ways that people relate to each other within them. And high in importance among the form of social relationships - a theme underlying the existence of Scottish Child - is the way the young are socialised.

Socialised with how much of a sense of worth, of possibility, and of hope, depends on a number of things. Our history, traditions, cultural and educational values, our religious, philosophical and moral precepts, and our form of government - all set the stage for the growing mind.

In recent months, Scottish Child has tried to examine a number of the influences on the rising generation. Our issue on Poverty Politics sought to explore how the experience of poverty for many Scottish families conditions their lives. In the "thriving enterprise culture", the way that people, including children, are regarded as mere commodities; the perceptions of power encouraged within a state with a prominent monarchy; control of the mass media by multi-national conglomerates - all have been subject to attention in these pages in recent months.

Of course, there are traditions even in the ways that these matters can be looked at. It is important, we feel, not to be hidebound in our discussions by predetermined ways of thinking. Certainly it is a relief that the divide between individual and social determinants of human consciousness is beginning, even in the darkest corners, to be crumbling. It is much more demanding, and a good deal more exciting, to regard the relation between the individual and the environment as an ever-moving dynamic.

Take the notion of self-determination, for example. Few beyond the most blinkered career politicians would seriously argue that some kind of successful resolution to the efforts of the Constitutional Convention to set up a measure of self-government in Scotland would make us all, at a stroke, self-determined. In spite of the denials of the Miss Trunchbuls of this world, we have our personal beginnings, our shared history.

If in Scotland, in Christopher Smout's words, we continue telling the young, through our own actions and attitudes, to "'fear what is new, believe the difficult to be impossible, draw back from responsibility, and afford established authority and tradition an exaggerated respect'", - then nothing will have really changed.

Constitutional change, without a commensurate growth in the way we perceive the world will not amount to much.

To take the discussion of this dynamic further, Scottish Child is planning a series of events. Bringing people together to tackle the complexities of childhood and nationhood will develop the necessary task of addressing the human implications of possible structural change. Should the current manoeuvrings in the political arena (perish the thought!) come to nothing, then such work might even enhance our capacity, individually and collectively, to manage it better in the future. (box)

NOAM CHOMSKY IN GLASGOW

The American academic and critic, Noam Chomsky, will visit Glasgow next January to give an address as part of Scottish Child's Childhood and Nationhood series of events.

Noam Chomsky is Institute Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is widely regarded as America's leading radical intellectual (see adjacent Profile). He has agreed to give an address on the theme of Self determination - a life task and a political task.

Having written and lectured extensively on the implications of U.S. foreign and domestic policy, he will bring, according to Scottish Child editor, Derek Rodger, "'a fresh perspective, and an international one to the current interest in Scottish life with notions of self-determination."

Chomsky comes with a wealth of observation of the efforts of peoples around the globe to achieve autonomy and self-determination - and the consequences of crossing the interests of bigger and superpower neighbours.

This event, which will take place at a venue in Glasgow on January 10th next year, is likely to attract a good deal of interest from many sectors, both north and south of the border. Further details will be announced in the next issue, and through publicity. (box)

To confront a mind that radically alters our perception of the world is one of life's unsettling yet liberating experiences. So begins editor, James Peck's introduction to The Chomsky Reader - a collection of some of Noam Chomsky's most prominent writings, published in Britain last year.

The range of interest is formidable. Questions of human intelligence, creativity, the nature of power and terrorism, the role of the U.S. in Vietnam and in Central America today, Chomsky writes with a critical edge and an independence of mind that is not rivalled by many.

Certainly, although himself a member of the academic community - he holds professorship at the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy at Massachusetts Institute of Technology - it does not tie him to fall in line with the intellectual establishment. On the contrary.

"What you often find," Chomsky was quoted in a recent interview, "is that intellectuals are the most indoctrinated part of the population - they are the ideological managers, so they have to internalise the propaganda. They have to believe it." His latest book, The Manufacturing of Consent attends to the way power, and belief in that power, is won by the most powerful nation on earth.

Americas's leading dissident - as at least one reviewer has described Chomsky - strikes at the heart of the self-image of the United States establishment view, that America is a benign giant with the interests of freedom at heart. The reality in Chomsky's terms is closer to the position that America, at home and abroad, acts in the interests of its ruling mega-corporation and military elite, and will not stop at subterfuge and force. The consequences reverberate throughout the world. Not surprisingly Chomsky himself has his critics.

"Most American commentators stopped debating US foreign policy with Chomsky long ago; answer not the fool according to his folly lest thou be like unto him," began a debative article by John Taft in an issue of The Listener this Spring.

Born in 1928, Chomsky grew up in Philadelphia, the son of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. The young Noam learned Hebrew and from an early age attended a progressive school. He claims it never occurred to him until he went to high school that he was a "good student" who would get straight "A"'s. Schools, he feels, could be run quite differently, but that a society based on authoritarian hierarchic institutions would not tolerate a creative education for very long.

Having developed an interest in linguistics, by 1957 he had published Syntactic Structures, a book that revolutionised the subject. Exploring the roots of human knowledge through language led his mind to politics, where he has contributed ideas through a prolific output of papers, lectures and books ever since.

Ever critical of the nature of power in his own context, of the

obfuscating role of the media and other professional ideologists, Chomsky is nonetheless a believer in the "commonsense capacities of people". In the modern world, according to Chomsky, it's not that people do not use their commonsense and intellectual skills. They do, but in areas that have no meaning... "as a displacement from the serious problems which one cannot influence and affect because the power happens to lie elsewhere."

He has studied the efforts of the peoples of South East Asia, the Middle East and in Central America to strive for autonomy and self-determination. Should they conflict even indirectly with "America's fifth freedom" - the right to protect its own economic interests - then the reprisals, can be summary and ruthless.

It is in the task of changing the balance of power for the mass of people that Noam Chomsky is determinedly, and to the chagrin of his critics, rationally engaged. (box)

① POSTCARD TO JIM SILLARS to explain issue

② STEWARDEERING - basic

③ catering

④ Brendan (drought ^{FRIDAY})

⑤ transport

⑥ protocol (meeting Chomski)

⑦ ✓ ~~Group~~ Group leaders (7TH JAN Sunday meet)

⑧ workshops (Keith)

⑨ information desk

⑩ Reception team/stewarding

⑪ chairs etc

⑫ cloakroom

⑬ Press conference organiser

⑭ Panel 4 people

⑮ THURSDAY 14TH MEETING 7.00 PM

⑯ SERPENT TAIL / SECKER & WARBURG NOT SENT
DOUGH YET

Sean Bradley
Cathie Thomson
Keith Millar.
Chris Frew
Tom Leonard
Kathie Acker
Peter
Billy Clark

PHONE
JOHN MacGORMAN
RIGHT
NOW
*

REARRANGE

phoebe Kathie

Group Leaders

Terlochan Gata Awa

Denis Gallacher

Alasdair Dickson

Dave McDelland

Kathie Thomson

Hywel Thomas

Kay Corniblaet

Gemma Kirkwood

Colin Kirkwood

~~James~~ Hassan

Christine Wilson

Colin Chalmers

Rosemary Milne

Tom Leonard

Chris Frew

1) Letter to Chomsky PRINT OUT
all information

(18) Kenneth Alexander
Sam Calbreith

(19) Phone John la Rose

JAMES

(2)

Plenary

THANKS

BUCKET

INITIAL THANKS
BUCKET

Derek

SCOTTISH

F.V.C.

(1)

has made it possible, the general support ~~and~~ the energy & enthusiasm to make this event work

(2)

CRGCHE

(1)

FILM TEAM - BOOK RECORDING

~~George Davie~~

STAFF

~~the~~ community groups local to the area

(2)

catering & bar -
stewarding

(?)

Billy Fisher & John Welbury
for their ~~support~~

also just
to mention

(2)

~~the participants~~ As so many of ~~the~~ you
the community ~~of the participants~~ the
that's made them for taking the time
and the trouble - ~~financial~~ ~~too~~ to
~~the~~ come here

(1)

writers and musicians

George Davie for

(2)

his contribution, and his
enthusiasm for the event

(1)

the Peace Institute permanent staff

~~THANKS~~
THEN NOAM

Contact LIST Alan Taylor
 contact Herald " "
 CITY LIMITS " "
~~CONTACT - VEGAN - Brendan~~

ORGANISATION:

- ✓ Applications: organiser
- ✓ Accommodation: " "
- Workshops: " "
- ✓ catering: " "
- discussion Group leaders — meeting
- ✓ NOTICEBOARD organizer
- ✓ SOCIALS MC " " NO MUSIC WED. MUSIC THU
- local groups " "
- ✓ books — Ramsay —

DEC 4TH
 RAISE DOUGH FOR
 CONCESSIONS

accommodation houses

names — lists

Hywel "1
Alasdair "1

J K — 4

591

Janet Hassan

Jenny

Cathy

Hywel

Carol

Loma

Allan Davidson

hiring screening

" 300 choirs

Kay Carmichael
 Janet Hassan

KEITH — WORKSHOPS
 RAMSAY — BOOKS

+ also to see about space room for VIDEO etc. also space for Groups 28/12/84
 Applications — 30 over on Derek's list / 10 on mine + 15 Art school
 Alan Davidson to see how many space

Shona Robison — only for evening
 Stevie Lees —
 Ian McKay —

Wed morning
~~DATE~~ Thurs morning
 Get people ~~who~~ who won't
 be there in evening to
 tell us.

Jim
 Gillespie

Ken McKinnon
 Anne Smith
 Genie Fellows
 Karen Thomson
 Jaye ~~Thorn~~
 Janet Hassan
 Anne McNeil
 Alden's four
 Stewart Ennis
 Senya Leonard
 Jackie Campin

Listed names for Evenings

CRAWHILL
 POSTERS 774-8595
 350 ask for George / MORNING
 PHONE 33 LAMLAH
 CRESCENT
 1 PM SUNDAY

Lorn McIntyre also for HERALD
 Gordon Muir

JIM GILLESPIE
 MALCOLM DICKSON
 Graham Stalker

1 DAY SELF DETERMINATION A LIFE TASK A PRACTICAL TASK

10.30 Introductory
 10.45-11.45 Key speech by Chomsky
 11.45-12.30 Replies - invited speakers



12.30 Lunch
 1.30 Various workshop/groups - leaders

1.45 COFFEE/TEA
 2.45 plenary discussion

SCOTSMAN SAYS "NO"
 STV still interested

Editor
 Ian Bell - observer
 Scotland

2.45-3pm
 3 to 4.15 PM

see DON COUTTS
 STEWART COSGROVE

BLACK ADDITION
 TARDISMAN

SELF DETERMINATION
 FREEDOM

Catering | lunch
 6 international

S. Arts Council
 Red Health foods

A.N.C.

3 DAY EVENT
 EDINBURGH REVIEW
 SCOTTISH CHILD

WE

phone Pete ^{SERIES} TAIL
 phone John La Rose

EVENING	RIVERSIDE
DAY	PEARCE INSTITUTE MARYHILL CENTRAL COMMUNITY

sorry Madam's daughter
 Isabel

Jean Hewison
 Phyllis Steele

NOAM CHOMSKY : GEORGE DAVIE

SORLEY MACLEAN : ADONIS

CHINWEIZU : JEROME ROTHENBERG

NGUGI WA THIONG'O

JOHN LA ROSE : YUSUF HASSAN

MONGANE SEROTE

MONGO BETI

~~AYI KWEI ARMAH~~

IM CHOMSKY : GEORGE DAVIE

SORLEY MACLEAN : ADONIS :

CHINWEIZU : TOM LEONARD : JEROME ROTHENBERG

YUSUF HASSAN : PETER KRAVITZ : DEREK RODGER

AYI KWEI ARMAH : JAMES KELMAN

WED

~~Mandlenkosi Lunga~~
Tom Raworeh
Alexei Odashevski
~~Alasdair Gray~~
~~John La Rose~~
Viktor Kriouhin
~~Alexei Odrushvski~~
GEO Gallacher
Jayne Taylor

THURS

TOM LEONARD
MISCHA KHAZIN
Wally Serote
Hamish Henderson
James Kelman
Anthony Macneacail
Roy Bailey
Aidan Curran
Alan Tall
John Grieve

Self-determination and Power

Dates: 10 and 11 January, 1989

Location: Pearce Institute, 840 Govan Road, Govan, Glasgow

Organised and Supported by:

SCOTTISH CHILD FREE UNIVERSITY EDINBURGH REVIEW

Noam Chomsky, as well as being Professor of Linguistics and Philosophy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is America's foremost radical thinker, will lead off the proceedings with a keynote address on Wed 10th January on the theme -

Self-Determination - a life task and a political task

Self-determination is a key issue, not just in modern Scotland, but for all peoples at all points in history. How we determine our lives as individuals, and how power is determined between groups and interests in a society, is the stuff, not only of 'politics', but of life itself.

Commonsense and Freedom is the title of a day long seminar on Thursday 11th January. Led off by Noam Chomsky, the day will explore the Common Sense tradition of knowing the world. Strongly supported in Scottish philosophical traditions, 'common sense' takes the view that we innately 'know'. Consequently imperial power interests attack the common sense tradition, if only to preserve their own right to govern.

Other contributors on both days include:

Kathy Acker, George Davie, Alasdair Gray, Hamish Henderson, James Kelman, Jackie Kay, Tom Leonard, Sorley MacLean, Tom Raworth,

*Worth, Muzewski and
Mandankosi Lange*

~~Other contributors on both days include:~~
ALSO Other guests, members of groups who have taken part in self-determined activity, writers and musicians.

PLUS Books, workshops, stalls, exhibits, creche, catering and bar.

AND following on from each day, two evenings of music, readings and ceilidh.

COME TO ONE DAY OR BOTH

BUT BOOK EARLY!

This event is likely to be heavily oversubscribed.
Applications should be received by October 31st.

YES, I want to attend the Self-Determination and Power event.
Please send me full details and event programme.

Send me..... tickets for Self-determination - a life task and a political task for Wednesday 10th January, 1990 at £10 each (unwaged £6) including snack lunch.

Send metickets for Commonsense and Freedom for Thursday 11th January 1990 at £10 each (unwaged £6) including snack lunch.

I need place(s) for children aged in the creche on(dates).

Send Cheques (or banker's draft in pounds sterling) for total amount and make payable to: Scottish Child Pearce Event

NAME

ADDRESS

..... TEL

So that the organisers can make up balanced discussion groups as part of the programme on each day, please state your OCCUPATION/ AREA OF INTEREST

Return this form with remittance to: Scottish Child, 4 Garrioch Drive, Glasgow G20 8RP

Accommodation - ~~a limited amount~~ accommodation can be offered by the organisers. State your needs on this return, and give a day and evening telephone number.

HOW TO GET THERE

The Pearce Institute is sited adjacent to Govan Cross Shopping Centre on Govan Road.

Train If arriving in Glasgow by train at either Queen Street or Central Station, use the Underground Station at Buchanan Street, and alight at Govan Station.

Bus Govan Bus Station is at Govan Cross, and is two minutes walk from the Pearce Institute. Use bus numbers 17, 23, and 34 from Southside, and 23 & 24 (red bus) from town.

Car Leave the M8 motorway at Junction 23, proceed down Broomloan Road (past Ibrox Stadium) to Govan Road and turn left. Adjacent parking available.

QUOTES

"What you often find is that intellectuals are the most indoctrinated part of the population - they are the ideological managers, so they have to internalise the propaganda. They have to believe it." Noam Chomsky

"People who are independent-minded and cannot be trusted to be obedient don't make it (in journalism and the academic professions) - they're often filtered out along the way." Noam Chomsky

"People are using their commonsense and intellectual skills (in radio sports programme phone-ins)... at a high degree of thought and analysis. But in an area which has no meaning and probably thrives because it has no meaning, as a displacement from the serious problems which one cannot influence and affect because the power happens to lie elsewhere." Noam Chomsky

This is the era of the expert, the specialist, the person society pays to know. The expert is the person who gets paid a very large salary to define concepts like starvation, dampness in council housing, poverty, torture. The expert also redefines statistics such as the unemployment figures, infant mortality rates and so on. Some would argue that the real job of the expert is to obscure reality, to draw a veil over what is actually happening in the world.

Aside from his work on international politics, Noam Chomsky is a major philosopher of this century. Central to his thesis is a very basic and apparently obvious point, that people can think for themselves. Everybody can know and everybody can judge.

Another name for this is 'Common Sense'. In Scotland, as in France, there has been a very strong tradition in the philosophy of 'Common Sense' - our entire education system used to be grounded on it. But for the past two or three hundred years political power has been held by those whose vested interests are in direct conflict with the entire notion of 'Common Sense'.

Their line of thought has to justify their right to know what you need, no matter what you have to say on the subject. It also has to justify your loss of the right to argue the point. It is a philosophy that exists to ratify every form of exploitation, from colonial rule to slavery, from the suppression of trades unions to child prostitution. The history of the violation of human rights travels the same path as the history of the attack on 'Common Sense'.

It is something of a 'coincidence' that where 'Common Sense' exists, so does the idea of 'freedom'; It is no accident that Noam Chomsky's work is banned in some countries in the world, and detested by the ruling minorities in almost every other.

James Kelman

SELF-DETERMINATION AND POWER EVENT

WORKSHOPS

Workshops are scheduled each day between 4.30 and 7.30 p.m. We would like to leave as much space as possible free for a flexible response to issues that arise in debate, or from world events that are due to unfold. Therefore, it would be helpful if you could indicate:-

1. Whether a 1½ hour workshop would be enough to cover your workshop.
2. Whether you anticipate a fairly small gathering and you could cope with a partitioned area of a large room.
3. Whether you have strong preferences for a Wednesday or Thursday slot, or late afternoon or evening, since it would be helpful if some workshop organisers can let us allocate them a slot to fit round others who do not have the luxury of either day.
4. Whether you need any special facilities to be arranged, e.g. overhead projector. (It would be better for us if you could provide these facilities yourselves if possible).
5. We may have to approach some workshop organisers, if there is a considerable overlap in the topic proposed and a surplus of proposed workshops, to consider merging their discussions. Although it is too early to anticipate this at present.

An imaginary workshop structure may look like this:-

Rooms	Wednesday		Thursday	
	4.30/6.00p.m.	6.05/7.35p.m.	4.30/6.00p.m.	6.05/7.35p.m.
1.	WHAT IS THE FREE UNIVERSITY. P Kraite - J. Kelman etc.			'REVOLUTIONARY NATIONALISM' John La Rose <i>and fundamental socialism</i>
2.		SOCIALIST TEACHERS N Bissel	SCOTTISH MOZAMBIQUE AID. I. Brown	HERE & NOW FORUM
3.	PRIERE & LEARNING PROJECTS Kirkwoods	RACISM/ANTI RACISM. Sourish Tarlochan	RACE & EDUCATION Gus John	SCOTTISH MAGAZINES *PT. 1 Derek Rodger
4.		COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES P. Brown	COMMONSENSE PHILOSOPHY	
Small Space A.				
Small Space B.				

*PT. 2 on Friday Afternoon 1.30 - 4.30